

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 4 and 7 being independent claims.

Claims 1-8 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bick* (U.K. Pat. App. No. GB 2,367,530) in view of *Miyajima et al.* (U.S. 6,518,958).

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner states that *Bick* teaches all of the elements of the claim, except for “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons,” which is allegedly taught *Miyajima*. Applicants disagree.

*Bick* discloses a keypad assembly 7 for a portable radiotelephone (Abstract; Fig. 3), comprising a key button part 17 having a plurality of key buttons 18 for functioning in one of a keypad mode and a touch screen panel mode (page 4 lines 18-19); and a power supply unit (page 4 lines 5-6).

*Miyajima* is directed to an electronic apparatus having a membrane switch and a touch panel switch at its entirety section, the touch panel switch is elastic and is laid over the membrane switch. The two-layered structure provides users with two operations: a “finger-sliding” operation and a “finger-depressing operation.” When a user slides a finger on the surface of the touch panel switch, the sliding force activates the touch panel switch. The “finger-sliding” is used for selecting a desired item. On the other hand, when the user presses down on the surface of the touch panel switch, the depression force through the touch panel switch activates the underlying membrane switch. The “finger-depressing” is used for numeric or symbolic information entry.

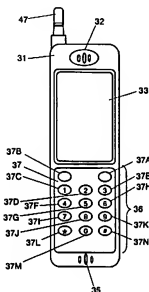
As described above, in rejecting independent Claim 1 the Examiner admits that *Bick* fails to teach “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons,” but asserts that this is taught *Miyajima*. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As teaching this admitted deficiency of *Bick*, the Examiner cites the Abstract and FIGs. 1, 2, and 6-8 of *Miyajima*, specifically identifying “where keys are close together and without spacing where the finger is slid over the same area as the key button part.”

The Abstract of *Miyajima* is summarized above, and as can be easily seen, there is nothing in the Abstract that teaches “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons.”

Further, FIG. 1 of *Miyajima* is presented below for ease of comparison.

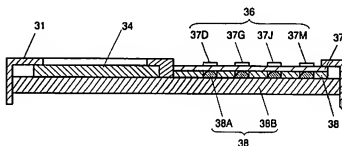
FIG. 1



As can be seen above, the key buttons in FIG. 1 are clearly spaced apart from each other.

Further, FIG. 2 of *Miyajima* is presented below for ease of comparison.

FIG. 2



As shown above, FIG. 2 is a side perspective of the phone illustrated in FIG. 1. Additionally, FIG. 2 clearly shows that the top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons are spaced far apart, and therefore do not form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Additionally, FIGs. 6-8 illustrate basically the same phone and key illustrated in FIG. 1. Therefore, these figures also fail to teach “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons.”

Further, the Examiner’s identification of “where keys are close together and without spacing where the finger is slid over the same area as the key button part,” does not actually appear to relate to anything actually described in *Miyajima*, nor does it appear to address the recitation of Claim 1, i.e., “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons.”

Additionally, upon review of the remaining sections of *Miyajima*, Applicants can find no section that teaches “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons.”

Accordingly, as neither *Bick* nor *Miyajima*, alone or in combination, teaches “a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel

with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons,” it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinct from *Bick* in view of *Miyajima*, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the above rationale for Claim 1 also similarly applies to independent Claims 4 and 7 with respect to *Bick* in view of *Miyajima*. Therefore, it is also respectfully submitted that independent Claims 4 and 7 are patentably distinct from *Bick* in view of *Miyajima*, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8, while not conceding the patentability of the dependent claims, *per se*, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8 are also patentable for at least the above reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8 are allowable over *Bick*, and is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-8, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants’ attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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